

REMARKS

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kuo (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,397). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

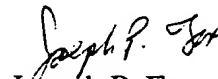
Enclosed herewith are Verified English Translations of Japanese Priority Document Nos. JP 11-196736 and JP 11-373132. Certified copies of these documents were filed on July 7, 2000.

The Kuo reference has a Publication Date of July 23, 2002, and a filing date of June 2, 2000. Japanese Priority Document 11-196736 has a filing date of July 9, 1999, and Japanese Priority Document 11-373132 has a filing date of December 28, 1999. These priority documents disclose the subject matter defined in rejected claim 1. Accordingly, the foreign priority dates of the present invention are earlier than the publication and filing dates of the Kuo reference. As the claim for foreign priority has been perfected with the filing of the enclosed Verified Translations of the Priority Documents, Applicants respectfully request that the §102(e) rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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